

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A infant care apparatus, said infant care apparatus comprising a base having ends and forming an infant platform on which an infant is adapted to be positioned, said infant care apparatus having an obstruction located above the infant platform at one end thereof, a canopy pivotally affixed with respect to said infant platform and adapted to overlie an infant when positioned on said infant platform to create an infant compartment enclosing an infant, means to create an open space in said canopy, said open space being aligned with said obstruction so as to allow the canopy to be pivoted to said open position to allow said canopy to be moved to said open position past said obstruction.

2. The infant care apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said infant care apparatus is an infant warming apparatus.

3. The infant care apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein said obstruction is a radiant heater.

4. A infant care apparatus, said infant care apparatus comprising a base having ends and forming an infant platform on which an infant is adapted to be positioned, said infant care apparatus having an obstruction located above the infant platform at one end thereof, a canopy adapted to overlie an infant when positioned on said infant platform to create an infant compartment surrounding an infant, said canopy having a first section pivotally affixed to the apparatus at the one end of said apparatus so as to pivot between an open position wherein there is access to the infant and a closed position wherein the infant is enclosed within an infant compartment, said canopy having a second section that can be moved relative to said first section to create an opening in the canopy, said opening being

aligned with the obstruction so as to allow the canopy to be pivoted past said obstruction to said open position from said closed position.

5. The infant care apparatus as defined in claim 4 wherein said second section is pivotally affixed to said first section.

6. The infant care apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein said second section is a trap door that is biased to a closed position and is moved to create an opening by encountering said obstruction to move said trap door against said bias.

7. The infant care apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein said infant care apparatus includes a motive means and said second section is moved relative to said first section by means of said motive means.

8. The infant care apparatus as defined in claim 4 wherein said first section is slidably affixed to said second section.

9. The infant care apparatus as defined in claim 4 wherein said obstruction comprises a heater adapted to direct heat toward said infant platform.

10. The infant care apparatus as defined in claim 4 wherein said infant care apparatus includes a motive means operable to move said canopy between its open and closed positions.

11. A infant warming apparatus, said infant warming apparatus comprising a base having ends and forming an infant platform on which an infant is adapted to be positioned, said infant warming apparatus having a radiant heater affixed at one of said ends and located a vertical distance above said infant platform, a canopy adapted to overlie an infant when positioned on said infant platform to create an infant compartment surrounding an infant, said canopy having a first section pivotally affixed to the apparatus at the one end of said apparatus so as to pivot between an open position wherein there is access to the infant and a closed position wherein the infant is enclosed within an infant

compartment, said canopy having a second section that can be moved relative to said first section to create an open space in the canopy, said open space being aligned with the obstruction so as to allow the canopy to be pivoted to said open position without encountering said obstruction.

12. The infant warming apparatus as defined in claim 11 wherein said infant warming apparatus further includes a warming system to introduce warm air into said infant compartment when said canopy is in said closed position.

13. The infant care apparatus as defined in claim 11 wherein said infant warming apparatus has a vertical member extending upwardly from said one end and said radiant heater is affixed to said vertical member.

14. The infant care apparatus as defined in claim 11 wherein said canopy has a rectangular footprint with long sides and said one end is shorter than said sides.

15. The infant care apparatus as defined in claim 11 wherein said first section is pivotally affixed to the infant care apparatus and said second section is pivotally affixed to said first section.

16. The infant care apparatus as defined in claim 11 wherein said second section is slidably affixed to said first section.

17. A method of using an infant warming apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an infant warming apparatus having a infant platform and an obstruction vertically displaced above said infant platform at one end thereof, the infant warming apparatus including a canopy that is mounted atop of the infant platform to enclose therein an infant within an infant compartment, the canopy having a first section and a second section;

pivotally affixing the first section with respect to the infant platform to allow the canopy to pivot between a first position where the infant compartment is

formed and a second position wherein an infant resting on the infant platform is accessible,

displacing the second section of the canopy with respect to the first section to form an open space in the canopy, and

aligning the open space with the obstruction, and

moving the canopy to its open position past the obstruction.

18. The method as defined in claim 16 wherein the step of displacing the second section with respect to the first section comprises pivoting the second section with respect to the first section.

19. The method as defined in claim 16 wherein the step of displacing the second section with respect to the first section comprises sliding the second section with respect to the first section.

20. The method as defined in claim 16 wherein the step of providing an infant warming apparatus comprises providing an infant warming apparatus wherein the obstruction is a radiant heater.